

ASPIRA/AMERICORPS, NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Population Served:

Approximately 30 students per week per Member  
Luis Munoz Marin Middle School  
Rafael Hernandez Elementary School  
Project Focus, Alternative High School

Service Provided:

1. In-class teacher assistance
2. Individual tutoring
3. After-school tutoring
4. After-school enrichment
5. Service-learning

Benefits:

Strengthen Communities

Leadership  
Development

Cultural  
Development

Creating  
Partnerships

Stipend  
\$175 p/week

Health/Child  
Care

Education Award  
\$4,725

Community Networking

Professional  
Development

ASPIRA/AMERICORPS, "Things Gotten Done", 1996-1996

PARTNERSHIPS

Newark Fighting Back  
"Anti-drug awareness"

Time Warner  
Time To Read  
"Literacy Program"

SHARE-NJ  
Self-help & Resource Exchange  
"Nutritional Packages"

Choices, Inc.  
Center for drug addicted  
mothers & children  
"Birthday Celebrations"

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Academic Improvement

Community Service  
Curriculum for Credit  
a. soup kitchen  
b. computer class

Community Service Involvement:  
New Jersey Historical Society  
The Hospitality Care Center  
National Youth Service Week

PEACE Quilt

Celebrity Reader

Training & Service Project  
ASPIRA CT, PA, NJ, NY  
Project: Community Garden, Bronx, NY  
Restored Community Center

Mural project (Luis Munoz Marin,  
Roberto Clemente, & other Latinos)

Camp Birch  
Children AIDS Camp

YEAR 3  
1996-1997

12 AmeriCorps Members

Continue Partnerships:  
Luis Munoz Marin  
Rafael Hernandez  
Time Warner  
New Jersey Historical Society,  
etc.

Declare Luis Munoz Marin  
as a "PEACE" Site

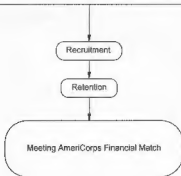
"GET THINGS DONE"

ASPIRA/AMERICORPS CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED THE LAST 2 YEARS

Recruitment

Retention

Meeting AmeriCorps Financial Match





## ASPIRA/AmeriCorps Community Service Program



### **What is ASPIRA?**

\* The ASPIRA Association, Inc. is a national non-profit organization devoted to serving Latino youth. Founded in 1961, ASPIRA takes its name from the Spanish verb *aspirar*, "to aspire to something greater." ASPIRA brings together students, parents, schools and community members through a variety of programs focusing on academic enrichment, college preparation, and leadership development.

### **What is ASPIRA/AmeriCorps?**

\* The ASPIRA/AmeriCorps program is an eleven month, school-based service program which trains and places Corpsmembers to work in urban middle and high school with high Latino populations.

### **What do ASPIRA/AmeriCorps members do?**

\* Corpsmembers serve in schools by providing in-class teacher assistance, individual and group tutoring, and the development of after-school and weekend enrichment activities. In addition to their school based services, members develop partnerships with other local community based organizations. They organize parents, students and community members to initiate large-scale community activities and service projects.

### **Who can serve as Corpsmembers?**

\* ASPIRA/AmeriCorps is looking for committed, motivated and mature people to serve as members. Applicants must be 17 years or older, have a high school diploma/G.E.D., be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents.

\* ASPIRA/AmeriCorps seeks individuals who have an interest in and commitment to the development of Latino youth education and leadership. Members must be able to tutor high school and middle school students and be willing to serve in Philadelphia, PA, Newark, NJ or Bridgeport, CT.

### **What benefits do Corpsmembers receive?**

\* In exchange for their commitment to service, Corpsmembers receive a modest living allowance of \$175 per week, health care benefits and child care if eligible. Corpsmembers are also eligible for a post-service educational benefit of \$4,725 to pay student loans or future educational expenses.

### **Getting Things Done...**

by addressing educational needs in urban schools with high Latino populations.

### **Strengthening Communities...**

by bring together people with a common goal of service to work together for a brighter future.

### **Encouraging Responsibility...**

and civic involvement among Corpsmembers towards their families, their community and their country.

### **Expanding Opportunity...**

through personal and professional development, skill building, and a post-service educational award.

If you are interested in joining ASPIRA/AmeriCorps, please call one of the following offices for additional information and an application:

ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.  
(202) 835-3600

ASPIRA of Connecticut  
Bridgeport, CT  
(203) 336-5762

ASPIRA of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ  
(201) 484-7554

ASPIRA of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 923 2717

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps is the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton. This year alone, 20,000 AmeriCorps members of all backgrounds will change their communities and earn education awards in return for their service.

This binder offers you essential information as you plan and implement your AmeriCorps program. This document briefly describes the mission of AmeriCorps.

Unlike many past federal initiatives, AmeriCorps is locally driven, offering resources to communities to design and implement their own solutions. The AmeriCorps National Service Network consists of over 350 different programs across the nation. Yet while local control is central to AmeriCorps, national identity is essential as well. All AmeriCorps programs share common elements and goals. Members of AmeriCorps will understand that they are participating both in a local program and in a national initiative.

### The Mission of AmeriCorps

The mission of AmeriCorps has four components: getting things done, strengthening communities, encouraging responsibility, and expanding opportunity.

**GETTING THINGS DONE--** AmeriCorps provides service to address Americans' educational, public safety, human, and environmental needs. By achieving demonstrable results in meeting such needs, AmeriCorps members will secure a smarter, safer, and healthier future for the Americans they touch. Every AmeriCorps program should set ambitious but attainable objectives for getting things done, and in the end should be able to demonstrate the degree to which those objectives have been met. The work of AmeriCorps programs will vary as much as America's needs do—including immunizing our infants, tutoring our teenagers, keeping our schools safe, restoring our natural resources, building houses for the homeless, and securing more independent lives for the elderly. Whatever the goal, all these efforts will get things done.

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES--** While we rightly celebrate the ways we differ, we also need to remember the values we share. AmeriCorps strengthens communities in two ways. First, it unites citizens from different backgrounds in improving our communities. AmeriCorps enables Americans of every race, region, religion and income to come together, in a spirit of respect and cooperation, in order to meet the nation's needs. Second, AmeriCorps brings together diverse institutions in partnerships to get things done in communities. These partnership can create bonds that transform communities—turning strangers into neighbors who combine their resources and find innovative solutions to stubborn problems.

**ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBILITY--** AmeriCorps strengthens the spirit of citizenship. Through service, discussion of service, and education about service, AmeriCorps enables members to see themselves as problem-solvers, not problems; to become leaders, not just

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followers; and to act on their responsibilities, in addition to their rights. While strengthening their desire to serve, AmeriCorps gives members the tools to fulfill their responsibilities throughout their lives, including communication and conflict resolution skills and an understanding of their communities.

**EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY**-- During the term of service, every AmeriCorps program offers a basic stipend, health care benefits, and child care if necessary. At the end of the term, the initiative helps those who have helped America by offering education awards of up to \$5000 that can be used for college, graduate school or vocational training, or to pay back student loans. In addition to this financial assistance, the experience of AmeriCorps expands opportunity in vital ways, providing invaluable life- and job-skills. Members emerge knowing how to teach or to build--and they carry these skills through the rest of their lives.

### **The Corporation for National Service**

The Corporation for National Service will act as a partner with State Commissions and programs in order to carry out the AmeriCorps mission. The responsibilities of the Corporation include making grants, administering education awards, providing technical assistance, and ensuring that all programs share a common identity and themes. Responsibilities of State Commissions include establishing a state plan, selecting AmeriCorps programs for funding through the state allocation, and providing technical assistance to programs.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF NATIONAL SERVICE

In times of great need, Americans have always answered the call of service. Our nation was founded by citizens who risked everything to build a foundation for freedom. In the years since, Americans have struggled through service to extend freedom to more Americans. From the American Revolution to the Civil Rights Movement and from the smallest farms to the biggest cities, Americans have worked together to improve their communities and their lives.

Throughout this century, each new generation of Americans has risen to the challenge of national service. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Four million young people joined in response—restoring the nation's parks, revitalizing its economy, and supporting their families and themselves. In eleven years of Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps provided billions of dollars in services and enabled millions of families to live in dignity.

During World War II, Roosevelt's GI Bill linked service to education, and offered war veterans the opportunity to pay for school in return for service to their country. Because of the GI Bill, veterans improved their own lives by attending college. They also contributed mightily to America's future: with the education they received, those citizens helped spark the economic boom that made America the world's leading economy. The principles of the CCC and the GI Bill—such as encouraging Americans to serve America and rewarding those who do—inspire AmeriCorps today.

For the next generation, the call to service came from President John F. Kennedy, who developed programs such as the Peace Corps that continue flourishing today. Thousands of Peace Corps volunteers have left the comforts of home and traveled to the poorest corners of the globe, building schools where none existed, helping farmers feed the hungry, and creating hospitals to care for the sick. After meeting vital needs overseas, returned Peace Corps Volunteers have put to work at home their new knowledge of others and spirit of citizenship, changing America for the better.

The 1960s also saw the birth of Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, which engages adults here at home in helping low-income communities help themselves. And initiatives such as the Retired Senior Volunteer Corps, the Foster Grandparents Program, and the Senior Companion Program developed in order to engage older Americans in the work of improving the nation.

In the 1970s and 1980s, a variety of programs at the local, state, and national levels expanded to offer young people opportunities to serve. Youth corps and college-based programs in particular mobilized communities—the people at the grassroots—to find and solve their own problems. In a time of scarce resources, these initiatives continued to involve citizens in meeting national needs.

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Today, another President has called Americans to service. In his Inaugural Address, President Bill Clinton challenged Americans to "seasons of service" around the nation. "National service is the American way to change America," Clinton said. In May, 1992, President Clinton introduced historic legislation to expand opportunities for young Americans to serve our country, build up their communities, and earn awards for their own education in return. Months later, Democrats and Republicans in Congress joined together to pass the bill creating AmeriCorps and the agency that administers it, the Corporation for National Service. President Clinton signed the legislation, the National and Community Service Trust Act, on September 21, 1993.